

ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health for 1950.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report for 1950 is again  
of a brief character.

General Statistics.

The area of the district remains the same at 4,778 acres.  
The number of inhabited houses is 2,374.  
Of the new houses completed in 1950, 28 were with state assistance  
and 5 were erected by private enterprise.  
The Rateable Value is £44,743.  
The sum represented by a penny rate is £176.  
The population is estimated at 7,252 and this figure is taken  
as a basis for calculating the birth and death rates.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

The number of births corrected for inward and outward transfers  
was 130 of which 62 were males and 68 females. Three of these  
were still births and seven were illegitimate.

Birth rate 1950 - 17.9 per thousand per annum.  
" " 1949 - 17.9 " " " "  
" " 1948 - 24.6 " " " "

The Birth Rate (England and Wales) 1950 - 16.17 per thousand  
per annum.

Deaths:-

The number of deaths corrected for inward and outward transfers  
was 85 of which 48 were males and 37 females.

Death rate 1950 - 11.7 per thousand per annum.  
" " 1949 - 11.9 " " " "  
" " 1948 - 12.4 " " " "

The Death Rate (England and Wales) 1950 - 11.6 per thousand  
per annum.

Infantile Deaths:-

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 1  
(legitimate) this was a male.

Infantile death rate 1950 - 7.7 per thousand births.  
" " " 1949 - 30.6 " " "  
" " " 1948 - 55.2 " " "

The Infantile Death Rate (England and Wales) 1950 - 29.8 per  
thousand live births.

Causes of death at all ages.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	Bronchitis	1
Other tubercular diseases	1	Pneumonia	2
Infantile paralysis	1	Other Respiratory diseases	1
Cancer	13	Gastric & Duodenal Ulcers	4
Heart Disease	34	Nephritis	1
Other vascular diseases	16	Accident	1
Other diseases	7	Suicide	1
Diabetis	1		

Infectious Diseases.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year  
excluding tuberculosis was 37 as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	1	Whooping Cough	17
Measles	13	Chicken Pox	1
Erysipelas	1	Infantile Paralysis	2
Acute Pneumonia	2		

The cases of Infantile Paralysis were of the non paralysis type. It is satisfactory to note that there were no cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid, Para-typhoid fever or Puerperal Fever

### Tuberculosis.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

### Local Health Services.

The Urban District is provided with Dental, Ante-natal, Orthopaedic and Welfare Clinics which are under the control of the County Council, as also are the Ambulance, Nursing and Domestic Health Services. The Infirmary and Fever Hospital take cases from the Urban and other districts. It is hoped that a Maternity Hospital will be functioning in the near future.

### Sanitary Circumstances.

#### Water Supply:-

The quality and quantity of the water during the year was satisfactory, extra pumping during mid and late summer sustaining the necessary quantity. The Senna Wells Scheme is progressing favourably and it is anticipated that a start will be made in 1952.

#### Drainage and Sewerage:-

A new sewage works scheme is in progress in conjunction with the new water supply scheme.

#### Food and Meat Inspections:-

Meat inspection is carried out at the Slaughter Houses by the Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. D.J. McPherson and this arrangement works quite satisfactorily.

#### Disinfestation.

All surface infestations in private properties etc., were effectively dealt with. The Refuse Tip was systematically treated during the year and the sewers twice treated with good results.

### Summary.

The general conditions of the District during 1950 were quite satisfactory and apart from an Influenza Epidemic which only commenced in December, there was no epidemic of infectious disease. worthy of comment.

B. Trevor Roper.

Medical Officer of Health.